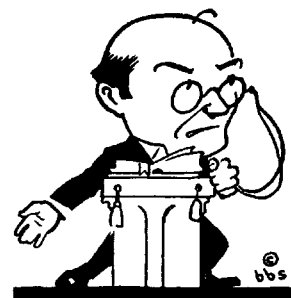


The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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TWO CENTS *from* the Editor



In the Mail . . .

Letters are funny things. Sometimes, like when they come from your best girl, or from an old friend, they make you feel good. And sometimes, as in the case of several received recently, they make you think all kinds of nasty things.

Now, John Rankine was a good man, and brilliant in his service to humanity. He deserves a memorial. But we can't help disliking the way these letters suggested going about it.

Every student of engineering in the United States pays about two bits. When said money has been collected, the \$15,000 or so is used to erect a fitting memorial to Rankine in Glasgow. He was professor at the University there. Boss of operations is to be the Intercollegiate Rankine Memorial Movement. Stated Object is "not only to honor Rankine but also and chiefly to make young American engineers more conscious of their and our great indebtedness to him."

Can't his alma mater or alumni or something raise the money or don't they think enough of him? This business of American indebtedness sounds funny, too.

You know, we had some boys that were pretty tough, too.

They say that "every single machine, bridge, steamship, or dam that has been scientifically designed in the last sixty years has owed something of value to the great Rankine." He was good, true enough, but it sounds as though the press agents have Einstein playing three-dimensional chess for relaxation again.

Honor, Prestige, and Price . . .

Now under "Why It Is," we find:

"4. The . . . memorial . . . would bring great honor to and materially increase the prestige of the engineering colleges and the profession of engineering in the United States." and worse yet,

"5. For the college engineering students of the United States to do this fine thing would appreciably increase the prestige of the whole nation."

As far as we are concerned, it seems that the one nation which has prestige is ours. The "Allies" hope we'll join quick, and Hitler is hoping to Hades we at least stay out. Finland has paid her war debts, and deserves an equal footing with us, but no one else. The idea of prestige to be added to our Nation's is insulting.

Point number six tells you how noble you're making yourself by these efforts, but for interest, beat this:

"7. The memorial would have valuable and timely international repercussions."

OH BOY, AND HOW! And save democracy, too, maybe.

Somehow, that just makes us doubt the sincerity of the whole thing.

Memories and Memorials.

John Rankine needs no memorial from us in the way that has been proposed. As it was stated once, why put up a mole hill to show where the mountain is? If someone really wanted to honor his name, how about a Rankine Memorial Scholarship Fund, run like the Rhodes Scholarships, except perhaps that complete choice of schools be available.

The questions raised concerning the twenty cents per man for a statue in Glasgow combine to one thought, of distrust. It's only twenty cents, but it will travel far, through many lands, and many hands, and mayhap many pockets, too. And the statue, too, is so far away. How many of us, the contributors, will ever see it? How many of us will worship at the shrine? A scholarship would at least be a little more tangible in its value.

The greatest tribute to John Rankine is the mention made of him in textbooks on thermodynamics, not some statue. If his alma mater cannot raise the money expected from us for a statue, what is wrong? We at Ohio State have been able to erect statues to our greats. If we really wanted to, we could within a decade get \$15,000 together for a real scholarship fund, but twenty cents for a statue in Scotland, hardly. —H. W. E.